

Hunt Area Boundaries

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Issue 5: Change the boundary description for Game Management Units 568 (Washougal) and 572 (Siouxon) near Chelatchie Prairie.

Species: All game species

WAC(s): [220-410-050](#)

Background: The current boundary language is unclear because there is confusion about road names at the point where NE Healy Road crosses Canyon Creek. This proposal represents a minor adjustment to the current boundary language. Instead of the boundary following NE Healy Road to National Forest (NF) Road 54 from the point where NE Healy Road crosses Canyon Creek the boundary would continue approximately 1.4 miles upstream until NF Road 54 crosses Canyon Creek. This would result in approximately 75 acres being removed from GMU 572 and added to GMU 568 as indicated by the shaded area in the image below.



Alternatives:

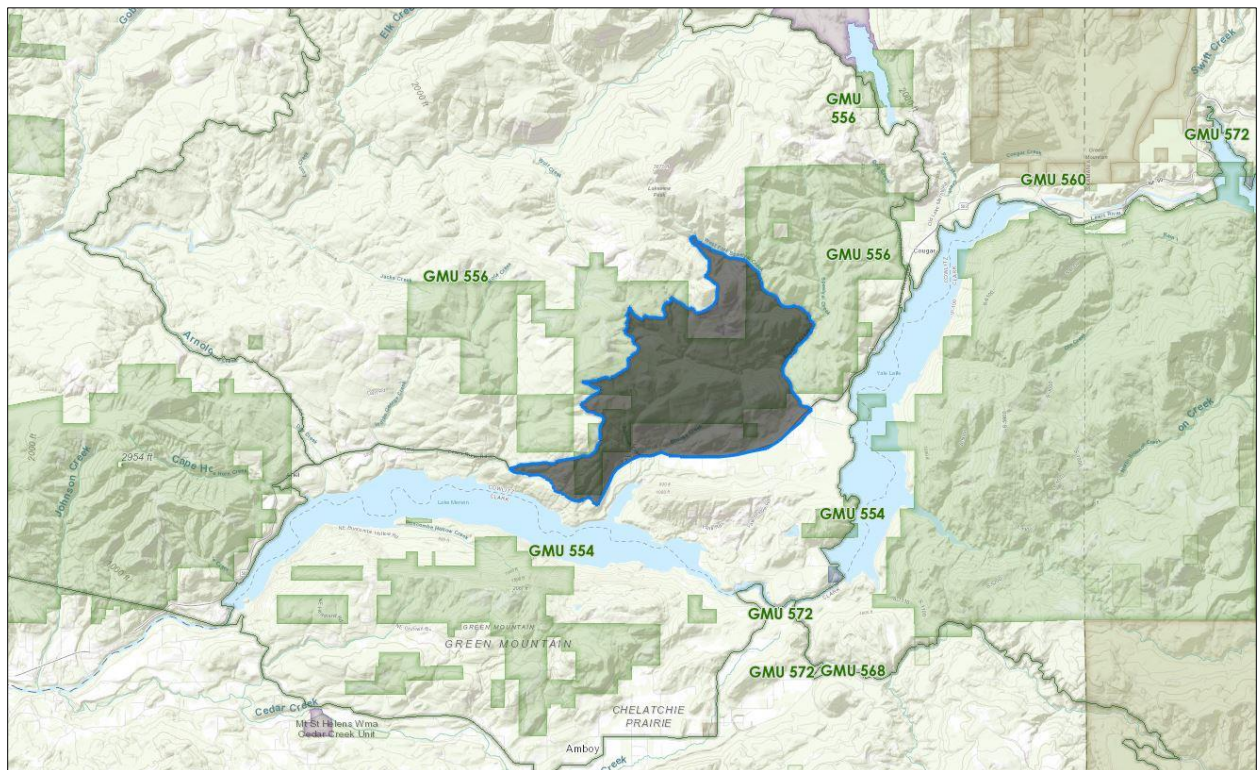
1. No change
2. Change the boundary as proposed

Issue 6: Add the portion of GMU 554 (Yale) that this north of State Route 503 to GMU 556 (Toutle)

Species: All game species

WAC(s): [220-410-050](#)

Background: Currently GMU 554 is a firearm restriction area (FRA), even though the portion north of State Route 503, which represents approximately 6,400 acres, is almost entirely forested (shaded area in image below). A large proportion of this area is also public land owned by the Department of Natural Resources. Because of these facts many hunters unintentionally hunt in the area not realizing they are in an FRA, which has resulted in a long-standing enforcement issue. Including the shaded area with GMU 556 instead of GMU 554 would alleviate this confusion and appropriately remove a large tract of mostly forested public land from an FRA.



Alternatives:

1. No change
2. Add the shaded portion of GMU 554 to GMU 556 as proposed.

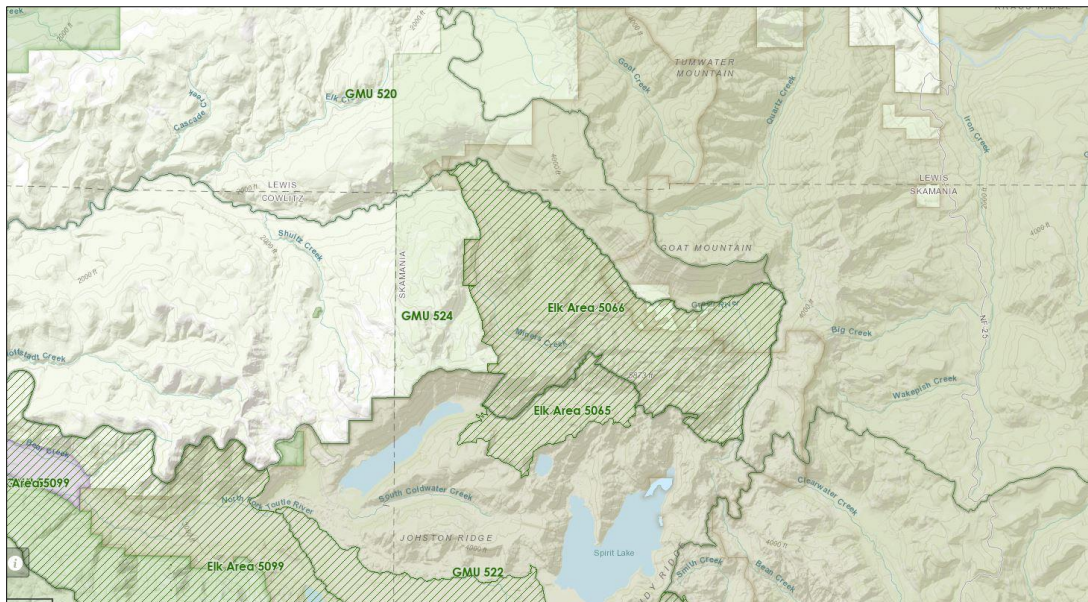
Issue 7: Add Elk Area 5066 (Norway Pass) to Game Management Unit 522 (Loo-Wit)

Species: All game species

WAC(s): [220-410-050](#), [220-415-040](#), [220-413-180](#)

Background: Currently, Elk Area 5066 (see image below) represents the eastern portion of GMU 524 (Margaret) and opportunities to hunt elk in this Elk Area are limited to special permit opportunities. Elk Area 5066 also represents that portion of the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument (Monument) that is within GMU 524. Hunters can currently hunt in this area during general seasons for other game species (e.g., black bear, grouse, cougar, deer, etc.).

This proposal seeks to remove Elk Area 5066 from GMU 524 and add it to GMU 522 because it would assist with clarification and enforcement of elk hunting regulations in the Monument. However, GMU 522 is currently closed to all hunting and trapping except for hunting elk and mountain goat by special permit holders during established seasons in designated areas. As such, hunters that have pursued game species other than elk or mountain goat would no longer be able to do so unless the Department also made modifications to the rule that prohibits these activities in GMU 522 (WAC 220-413-180).



Alternatives:

1. No change.
2. Add Elk Area 5066 to GMU 522 and retain the current rule that would only allow hunting for elk and mountain goats during established permit seasons in Elk Area 5066.
3. Add Elk Area 5066 to GMU 522 but modify the current rule to allow opportunities to hunt all game species within Elk Area 5066.

Issue 8: Make Stuart Island and Henry Island standalone Game Management Units, rather than including them as part of Game Management Unit 410 (Islands)

Species: All game species

WAC(s): 220-410-040

Background: Currently, Stuart Island and Henry Island are included with GMU 410 which includes all islands in San Juan and Skagit counties except Orcas, San Juan, Lopez, Shaw, Blakely, Decatur, and Cypress islands. Often hunters are confused about which islands are included under the description of GMU 410 and report their harvest incorrectly. Stuart and Henry Islands represent two of the larger islands in the Puget Sound that are not currently standalone GMUs. This proposal seeks to make these two islands standalone GMUs to lessen hunter confusion and improve harvest accuracy.



Alternatives:

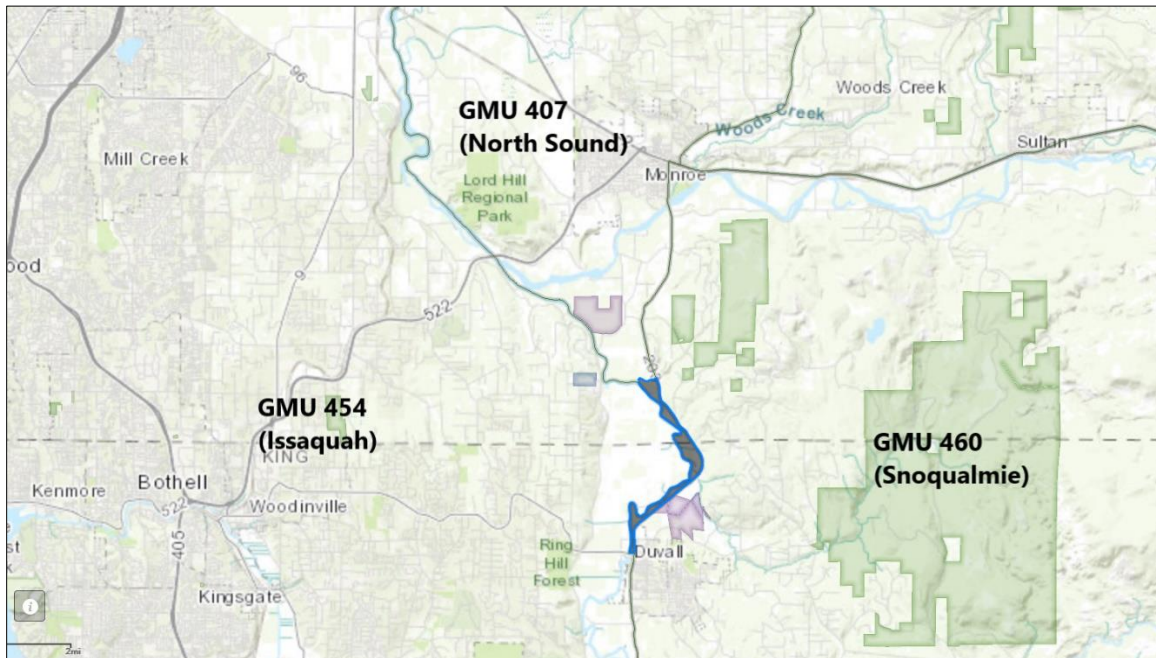
1. No change.
2. Make Stuart Island a standalone GMU.
3. Make Henry Island a standalone GMU.
4. Alternatives 2 and 3.

Issue 9: Change the boundary description for Game Management Units 407 (North Sound) and 454 (Issaquah) to minimize confusion.

Species: All game species

WAC(s): [220-410-040](#)

Background: The current boundary description for GMU 407 is defined by traveling south from the town of Monroe on State Route (SR) 203 to NE Woodinville-Duvall Road at the town of Duvall; W on NE Woodinville-Duvall Road to the Snohomish River and then N down the Snohomish River. The current boundary description results in a very narrow portion of GMU 407 that is bordered to the east by GMU 460 (Snoqualmie) and to the west by GMU 454. The shaded area in the image below represents approximately 450 acres, is approximately 140 yards wide at its narrowest point, and approximately 550 yards at its widest point. This small area of GMU 407 causes confusion and frequent enforcement issues. The Department is proposing to shift the boundary of GMU 407 north to Peoples Creek, which would result in the shaded portion being added to GMU 454.



Alternatives:

1. No change.
2. Change the boundary description for GMUs 407 and 454 as proposed.